

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-30

NEW YORK TIMES
27 OCTOBER 1981

Letters

A Persuasive Case Against 'Fedora'

To the Editor:

There are misleading points in the Sept. 27 letter from G. Robert Blakey, former chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. As the author of the Reader's Digest article he attacks, I would like to make two corrections.

First, I refer to my allegation that "Fedora" — by earlier accounts an F.B.I. source within the Soviet K.G.B. for 15 years — has been determined by the F.B.I. to have been duping our security services during the time he was purportedly working for the United States.

The Justice Department has now unofficially confirmed that information to The Washington Post, to William Safire of your newspaper and to numerous reporters for newspapers, wire services and networks. Your headline on Blakey's letter, "Unpersuasive Case Against Fedora," becomes absurd.

Second, it is at least questionable that Blakey should write that "... we concluded that... the bona fides of Nosenko [are]... not inextricably intertwined with those of any other defector." Clearly, Blakey suggests that this was a conclusion by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

If it is an official conclusion of the committee, I cannot find it in the committee's published final report. However, I do find such a sentence on page 133 of a book on the subject whose co-author is Blakey. This suggests to me that the conclusion is an

unofficial one from Blakey — not from the Congressional committee. Blakey is, of course, entitled to hold that opinion.

HENRY HURT
Roving Editor, Reader's Digest
Chatham, Va., Oct. 19, 1981